



# PowerCom

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Submission to:  
California Energy Commission  
Re: Docket No. 00-REN-1194  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

<b>DOCKET</b>	
00-REN-1194	
DATE	NOV 02 2000
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Submitted By:  
PowerCom Energy & Communications Access, Inc.

**Emerging Technology:**      **Proposed Enhancement to Emerging Renewables Buy-Down Program**

#### Background

For certain eligible renewable energy generating systems, the CEC offers rebates up to \$3,000 per kilowatt, or 50% off the system purchase price (whichever is less.)

#### Problem

Even with this rebate, the payback period for a consumer can be twenty years or more, greatly inhibiting the goals of the program.

#### Proposal

A comprehensive solution is to change the terms of the rebate and combine it with time-of-use (TOU) net metering to allow users to benefit from surplus generation.

The rebate terms would remain at \$3,000 per kilowatt, but would increase to 80% of the system purchase (whichever is less.) This would create appropriate incentives for individuals or small businesses; increase the adoption of renewables; and, not increase the cost per KW of generation.

Combining this enhanced rebate with net metering capability would allow for surplus generation to be sent back to the grid. Further, by creating a rebate for installation of time-of-use meters, a great incentive would be created to send surplus peak power back to the grid when, by definition, it is needed most. With TOU meters, consumers learn very quickly to minimize peak power consumption because it is priced at the highest rate.

### Benefits

The rebate enhancement, combined with a TOU meter program, will greatly increase the adoption of small renewable generating systems. The benefits include:

- Reduces pressure on the transmission system as the power is utilized at its generation source;
- Helps reduce peak power demand;
- Achieves a reduction in total power demand;
- Reduces the urgency of new generation capacity;
- Aids the growth of the renewables industry as consumers can save money overall by shifting consumption; and,
- Reduces pollution in the aggregate.

Consumers win, ESPs win, the CEC wins!

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